THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The General Insures' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) have reported that while existing insurance policies are renewed as per the normal practice, fresh policies are issued after inspection of the risk as per the underwriting requirement.

(c) and (d) The GIPSA have reported that as on 3.5.2002, the Public Sector General Insurance Companies have received about 5284 claims amounting to about Rs. 183 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

Spending on Social Security Benefits

5048. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per UNHDR-2001 India has abysmal performance in education, sanitation and public health;

(b) whether it is a fact that 44.2 per cent of Indians live below $ 1 a day and social security benefits expenditure is just 0.3 per cent of the Indian GDP;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to accelerate spending on social security benefits in the country rather than defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the HDR for 2001 does indicate that the percentage of population earning less than US $ 1 a day in terms of 1993 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in India is 44.2%, the HDR for 1996 indicates that social security benefits expenditure as a ratio of GDP was 0.3% in India (Base year 1993). However, the Planning Commission adopts as different methodology and does not compute poverty ratios on the basis of poverty lines converted into US $ PPP prices.

(d) In recognition of the enhanced role of the Government in Human Resource Development, the Central Government has increased resource allocation for individual components of the Social Sector.